

Appln No. 10/627,999
Amdt date June 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 23, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A portable collapsible environmental containment unit comprising:

(a) a collapsible, unitary framework having a set of extendable vertical supports;
(b) at least one collapsible unitary horizontal support element extending between adjacent vertical supports, and

(c) a flexible collapsible containment envelope secured to the interior of the framework and extending from the top of the containment unit downward to enclose the sides and bottom of the containment unit wherein the vertical supports can be raised to ceiling level and held in position against the ceiling to create a controlled environment within the containment unit and wherein the extendable vertical supports comprise first and second set of vertical supports, the second set being telescopically received in the first set and further including a collapsible unitary extension and flexible envelope removably mounted at the top of the framework and adapted to telescopically engage the top of the vertical supports wherein the containment envelope is open at the top to facilitate working in ceiling cavities and further including a removable opening on at least one vertical side of the containment envelope to permit ingress and egress of a worker when the enclosure is placed in working relation with a ceiling cavity.

Cancel claims 2-5.

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6. (Currently Amended) A containment unit according to claim [[5]] 6 including a panel of two ducts, each extending through the containment envelope from the interior to the exterior of the containment envelope.

7. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 6 having a negative air machine connected to one of the ducts for creating negative air pressure within the containment envelope.

8. (Currently Amended) A containment unit according to claim 7 ~~facilitating the use of~~ including a filter apparatus connected to one of said ducts for collecting airborne particulates drawn into the containment envelope.

Claim 9 - Canceled.

10. (Currently Amended) A containment unit according to claim 8 wherein a pair of wheels are attached at the base of the framework to facilitate moving the apparatus in the collapsed or extended condition ~~extended~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A portable collapsible environmental containment unit comprising:

- a collapsible unitary framework including extendable and retractable vertical supports,
- collapsible unitary horizontal supports interconnecting pairs of vertical supports,
- a closed flexible impermeable envelope secured to the framework on the interior thereof, the framework and envelope when in the fully erected condition defining a working enclosure of sufficient interior size to permit a fully erect worker to function; and
- a four sided flange extension attached to a side of the envelope adapted to be sealably attached around a door opening to isolate the environment of a space located interiorly of the

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door opening wherein the framework and envelope form a portable self-contained package when collapsed.

12. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 11 having at least one closable-access panel in the envelope to permit access to and from the enclosure.

13. (Currently Amended) A containment unit according to claim 12 having at least one transparent section in the side ~~size~~ of the envelope to permit viewing into and out of the enclosure.

14. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 13 having at least one port in the side of the envelope for the attachment of air pressure reducing equipment.

15. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 12 wherein the access panel is in the side of envelope opposite the four-sided extension.

16. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 12 wherein a second closable access panel is provided in the side of the envelope in which the flange is located.

17. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 12 wherein a closable panel is provided in the top of the envelope.

18. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 14 wherein the port is mounted in a removable panel.

19. (Previously Presented) A portable collapsible environmental containment unit comprising:

a collapsible unitary framework comprising:

- a plurality of vertical supports,
- a first collapsible horizontal support extending between a first adjacent pair of the vertical supports along the lengthwise dimension of the containment unit, and
- a second collapsible horizontal support extending between a second adjacent pair of the vertical supports along the widthwise dimension of the containment unit;

a closed flexible impermeable containment envelope secured to the framework on the interior thereof, the framework and containment envelope when in the fully erected condition defining a working enclosure of sufficient interior size to permit a fully erect worker to function therein;

a four sided extension attached to a side of the containment envelope adapted to be sealably attached around a door opening to isolate the environment of a room within; and

a first separable and resealable portion disposed in said side of the containment envelope to which the four sided extension is attached, wherein the first separable portion forms a first entrance/exit to the containment envelope to permit access to and from the enclosure through each of said door opening and said four sided extension.

20. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 comprising a second separable portion in the containment envelope that forms a second entrance/exit to the containment envelope to permit access to and from the containment envelope.

21. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 comprising at least one transparent section defining a portion of a side of the containment envelope to permit viewing into and out of the containment envelope.

22. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 having a first port in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of air pressure reducing equipment.

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23. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 22 having a second port in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of a filter apparatus for collecting air borne particulates.

24. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 20 wherein the second entrance/exit is disposed in a side of the containment envelope that does not contain the four-sided extension.

25. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 20 wherein the second entrance/exit is disposed in a side of the containment envelope opposite from the four-sided extension.

26. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 20 wherein the second entrance/exit is disposed in the top of the containment envelope.

27. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 comprising at least one removable panel.

28. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 wherein the first separable portion forms a first access panel that is removably attached to the containment envelope.

29. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 20 wherein the second separable portion is resealable.

30. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 20 wherein the second separable portion forms a second access panel that is removably attached to the containment envelope.

31. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 27 comprising a first port in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of air pressure reducing equipment and a second port in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of a filter apparatus for collecting air borne particulates, wherein the first and second ports are each disposed in one of the at least one removable panels.

32. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 wherein the four sided extension is removably attached to said side of the containment envelope.

33. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 wherein the four sided extension is flared outwardly from its attachment to said side of the containment envelope.

34. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 19 wherein the first collapsible horizontal support comprise at least one truss.

35. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 34 wherein the second collapsible support comprise at least one truss.

36. (Previously Presented) A portable collapsible environmental containment unit comprising:

a collapsible unitary framework comprising extendable and retractable vertical and horizontal supports,

a closed flexible impermeable containment envelope secured to the framework on the interior thereof, the framework and containment envelope when in the fully erected condition defining a working enclosure of sufficient interior size to permit a fully erect worker to function therein;

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a four-sided, flange extension attached to one side of the containment envelope adapted to be sealably attached around a door opening to isolate the environment of a room within; and

a first separable and closable portion disposed in said side of the containment envelope to which the four-sided extension is attached, wherein the first closable portion forms a first entrance/exit to the containment envelope to permit access to and from the enclosure through each of said door opening and said four sided extension.

37. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 comprising a second separable portion in the containment envelope that forms a second entrance/exit to the containment envelope to permit access to and from the containment envelope.

38. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 comprising at least one transparent section defining a portion of a side of the containment envelope to permit viewing into and out of the containment envelope.

39. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 having at least one removable duct panel in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of air pressure reducing equipment.

40. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 37 wherein the second entrance/exit is disposed in a side of the containment envelope that does not contain the four-sided extension.

41. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 37 wherein the second entrance/exit is disposed in a side of the envelope opposite from the four-sided extension.

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42. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 37 wherein the second entrance/exit is disposed in a side of the containment envelope adjacent the four-sided extension.

43. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 comprising at least one removable panel.

44. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 wherein the first separable portion forms a first access panel that is removably attached to the containment envelope.

45. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 37 wherein the second separable portion is resealable.

46. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 45 wherein the second separable portion forms a second access panel that is removably attached to the containment envelope.

47. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 43 comprising a first port in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of air pressure reducing equipment, wherein the first port is disposed in one of the at least one removable panels.

48. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 47 comprising a second port in a side of the containment envelope for the attachment of a filter apparatus for collecting air borne particulates, wherein the second port is disposed in one of the at least one removable panels.

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49. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 wherein the four sided extension is removably attached to said side of the containment envelope.

50. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 wherein the four sided extension is flared outwardly from its attachment to said side of the containment envelope.

51. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 wherein the collapsible framework encloses collapsible horizontal supports extending between adjacent ones of the plurality of vertical supports.

52. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 51 wherein the horizontal supports comprise at least one truss.

53. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 36 further comprising first collapsible supports extending between a first adjacent pair of the vertical supports along the lengthwise dimension of the containment unit.

54. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 53 further comprising second collapsible supports extending between a second adjacent pair of the vertical supports along the widthwise dimension of the containment unit.

55. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 54 further comprising a plurality of sliders mounted on each vertical support and connected to a bottom portion of each of the first and second collapsible supports.

56. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 54 wherein the first collapsible supports comprise at least one truss.

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57. (Previously Presented) A containment unit according to claim 56 wherein the second collapsible supports comprise at least one truss.

58. (Currently Amended) A portable collapsible environmental unit comprising:
a unitary collapsible framework including extendable and retractable vertical and horizontal supports,

a closed flexible impermeable envelope secured to the framework interiorly thereof, the framework and envelope when in the fully erected condition defining a working enclosure of sufficient interior size to permit a fully erect worker to function therein; and

an auxiliary extendable and retractable framework and envelope assembly mounted on top of the vertical supports for vertical extension into sealing engagement around an opening in a ceiling ~~or the like~~ for isolating the environment above the ceiling from the space where the containment unit is deployed.